

UPVG0009-100
PATENT APPLICATION

SERIAL NO.: 09/680,690
FILED: OCTOBER 6, 2000

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 12, 13, and 42.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of introducing a compound into a cell that expresses CD80 and/or CD86 costimulatory molecules, said method comprising contacting the cell with a non-cellular particle that comprises the compound and a ligand comprising CD28 or a portion thereof including the extracellular region of CD28; wherein said compound is a plasmid comprising a nucleic acid molecule and said non-cellular particle is selected from the group consisting of: a liposome and a cationic amphiphile/DNA complex.
2. previously canceled
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is a plasmid comprising is DNA.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is a plasmid comprising is DNA that comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein operably linked to regulatory elements functional in the cell.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the cell that expresses costimulatory molecules is a dendritic cell or a macrophage.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is a plasmid comprising is DNA that comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes an non-immunogenic protein operably linked to regulatory elements functional in the cell.

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7. Canceled

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the ligand is a fusion protein that includes CD28 or a portion thereof including the extracellular region of CD28 and a viral portion.

9. Canceled

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the cell that expresses CD80 and/or CD86 costimulatory molecules is a dendritic cell.

11. Canceled

12. (Currently Amended) A method of introducing a compound into a cell that expresses CD80 and/or CD86 costimulatory molecules comprising contacting the cell with a non-cellular particle that comprises the compound and a fusion protein, the fusion protein comprising the extracellular region of CD28 and the cytoplasmic and transmembrane regions of HIV gp41; wherein said compound is a plasmid comprising a nucleic acid molecule, and said cellular particle is selected from the group consisting of: a protein complex that comprises two or more protein molecules and a nucleic acid molecule; a liposome; and a cationic amphiphile/DNA complex.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a therapeutic protein to an individual comprising the step of administering to tissue of said individual at a site on said individual's body, a particle that comprises a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a therapeutic protein and a ligand comprising CD28 or a portion thereof including the extracellular region of CD28; wherein said particle is selected from the group consisting of: a protein complex that comprises two or more protein molecules and plasmid comprising a nucleic acid molecule; a liposome; and a cationic amphiphile/DNA complex.

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14-31 Canceled

32. canceled

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the ligand is a fusion protein that includes CD28 or a portion thereof including the extracellular region of CD28 and a viral protein portion that comprises HIV-1 gp41 or a portion thereof.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein said viral protein portion of the fusion protein comprises the transmembrane and cytoplasmic regions of HIV gp41.

35. Canceled

36. Canceled

37 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the compound is DNA.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the compound is DNA that comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein operably linked to regulatory elements functional in the cell.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the compound is DNA that comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunogenic protein operably linked to regulatory elements functional in the cell.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the compound is DNA that comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a non-immunogenic protein operable linked to regulatory elements functional in the cell.

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41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the cell that expresses CD80 and/or CD86 costimulatory molecules is a dendritic cell.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the particle ~~is a viral particle,~~ is a complex that comprises two or more protein molecules and a nucleic acid molecule, a liposome or a cationic amphiphile/DNA complex.